



A Thread in Time

June 2020

President's Message



I hope this newsletter finds everyone happy and healthy. I know with all of this stay at home and quarantine orders we are all a bit antsy. Life sure has changed in the matter of a few weeks. Some days it feels like forever until the next day and others just fly by. Keeping this virus contained is highly important though. Because of all the restrictions and recommendations from people who know far more than I do, we will not be having a face to face meeting in July this year. Instead, we will be having a virtual meeting. If you are interested please send an email to textileworkersofamerica@gmail.com and I will send you all the details. I'm not sure at this time if we will Zoom or use another format. I'm looking into formats that are inexpensive. We will be holding our elections at this meeting and would love your input!!!!

Please practice social distancing and proper hygiene practices in order to remain healthy!

You are very important to us!!

Sincerely,
Dawn Darche
President

Nomination Slate

President: Dawn Darche
Vice President: Ed Strickland
Treasurer: Nancy Merwin
Secretary: Marg Studley
Genealogist: Mary Brown

Treasurer's Information

Dues can be paid to Nancy Merwin at 284 Chesterfield Rd Oakdale, CT 06370 and are \$10 per year. There are life member options, please contact Nancy at nancyamerwin284@gmail.com.

Challenge

A Gate in Time



On a recent trip in Mt. Zion Cemetery in Webster, MA I took this picture of a gate at the Slater burial plot. This area is almost like it's own little secret garden area. There are not flowers but a few varieties of trees that provide a nice amount of shade. The first time I was there I just thought this was a piece of fencing left over from a different time. I did some more investigation and found it was a gate that actually opens. There is no fence around it, just this beautiful gate. I would like to sponsor a bit of a creative writing challenge about this gate. Please submit any short stories, poems, or thoughts on why there would be a gate included in someone's burial area. There are family headstones in the fenced area to the left (fenced and raised) and two headstones next to the bush you can see to the left outside the raised area. I will publish your work in our next newsletter. The only requirement is that the writing be about this gate. If you'd like more images of the area please let me know and I will get them to you. Please have all writings sent to textileworkersofamerica@gmail.com I am looking forward to your ideas!

Welcome!

We are a growing organization!! Please welcome the following new members! Please consider being involved. We need your support.

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|------|---------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| #97L | Myron Smith, Greeley, CO | #102L | Grace Bliss-Smith, Macomb, MI |
| #98 | Delores Jeffrey, Raiford, FL | #103 | Alline Kent, Warner Robins, GA |
| #99 | Ruth Ann Mueller, Oakridge, TX | #104 | Catherine McKenna, New Fairfield, CT |
| #100 | Jared Nathan, Thousand Oaks, CA | #105 | Janice Bynum, Jackson, TN |
| #101 | Susan Petres, Northville, MI | | |

Pandemics

By Dawn Darche

While surfing the web under the stay at home order by the state's governor I came across an article about Philadelphia, PA and the Spanish Flu of 1918. This just raised a few questions in my head about how often has this happened and how have people responded. We all have felt the economic impact of this COVID-19 virus. How did our ancestor factory workers deal with this? Were they put out of work? Did they collect unemployment? Were they put under stay at home orders? I found answers to a few of these questions and a bunch of interesting facts. I used these websites: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Influenza_pandemic

<https://www.heinz.cmu.edu/media/2020/March/karen-clay-iza-pandemics-and-the-labor-market>

<https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/1918-flu-pandemic>

<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/world-population-by-year/>

<https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/2020/05/22/second-wave-coronavirus-spanish-flu-1918-philadelphia-st-louis-influenza-deaths-covid-19/3085405001/>

Interestingly, enough I have discovered that the Federal Government did not do as much as they have done for us in 2020. Cities came up with their own plans for handling the threat. Philadelphia, PA did nothing and held city wide celebrations. This caused 15,000 deaths in a very short amount of time. St. Louis, MO closed schools, theaters, and banned public gatherings and did not lose half as many people. San Francisco fined people if they were out in public without a mask on their face. New York City had a slow transmission of the flu by staggering shifts on businesses to avoid overcrowding on subways.

What about factory workers? Because this was near the end of WWI workers were needed. Factories did not close down and people were expected to work unless they were physically unable to. Not only were factories open but members of the military were expected to work without exception. There was no unemployment and finding food was not as easy as it is today. Food banks were not as accessible as they are today. The threat of starving to death was strong so people worked even when not feeling well. There were no stay at home orders due to the war so people just wore masks to help keep themselves safe. People were told to keep themselves and their homes clean.

The Spanish Flu of 1918 got its name, not from where it originated, but from where the media started to actually report upon it. It was decided by the American media not to report on it as much as on the positive stories of the day. This is quite in contrast to how much more information we were given by the media this time around. It is not quite clear as to where in the

world this virus started, but the first case in the US was March 11, 1918 in Fort Riley, Kansas. With all of the war time travel it is no wonder that it spread so rapidly around the globe.

How long do these pandemic/epidemics last? I found a chart of 'modern' flu pandemics and then wondered what the world population was. It was stated that during the Spanish Flu 1918 on third of the population on the planet died. I then wondered how many people were there in the world at the time? I have recreated a quick view of the different flu pandemics over 'modern' times.

Name of flu	Years	Deaths Worldwide	World Population
Flu	1889-1990	1 million	1.6 billion
Spanish Flu	1918-1920	17 - 100 million	1.8 billion
Asian Flu	1957-1958	1 - 4 million	2.9 billion
Hong Kong Flu	1968-1969	1 - 4 million	3.6 billion
2009 Pandemic (H1N1)	2009 - 2010	151,700 – 575,400	6.9 billion
*COVID-19 (5.5 million cases in all not all end in death)	2020 - ?	346,000	7.8 billion

*These facts are as of May 26, 2020.

Following the Spanish Flu from 1920-1921 there was a recession in the US. While there have been many more Federal Government plans to help the economy keep going, there will have to be some sort of recovery in the future.

I hope you have found this little compilation of facts interesting. I am not a statistician or an economic guru, I have simply stated some of the reading I have done and am reflecting on.